BLACK LIVES MATTER DC

2020 - 2021

IMPACT REPORT

Cover Photo: Bridzette Lane, Mother of Ralphael Briscoe Killed by MPD 4/26/11

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Photo by: Brittney Washington

Photo by: Tony Hack

WHO WE ARE

Black Lives Matter DC is a member-based abolitionist organization centered around Black people most at risk for state violence in DC, creating the conditions for Black Liberation through the abolition of systems and institutions of white supremacy, capitalism, patriarchy, and colonialism.

WE ARE DEDICATED TO PROMOTING STRATEGIES THAT:

1. Empower the most oppressed Black people.
2. Do not reinforce or legitimize systems and institutions that harm including: police, prisons, mass incarceration, and modern slavery.
3. Divest from people, institutions, and systems that harm us and invest in the people institutions and other models that support our liberation and empowerment.
4. Use a diversity of tactics to promote harm reduction, political education, and non-cooperation as strategic visions.

Photo by: Maurice Bland

2020 - 2021 IN REVIEW

MESSAGE FROM TRIBE

2020 and 2021 proved unprecedented, especially for Black communities, lives, and bodies. Incidents highlighting systemic racism, white supremacy and continued state violence against Black people continued and publicly exposed more atrocities. George Floyd's murder, shared on social media, fueled the flames of injustice, rage, and grief, resulting in escalated calls to action for Black folks and allies worldwide.

On January 30, 2020, we released a public statement to Mayor Bowser, then Deputy Chief Contee, DC Council, business owners, and leaders in the District, telling them to send a clear message to racist Trump supporters planning to attack the city on January 6, 2020. Subsequently, we watched as the United States government aided white supremacist extremists and neo-Nazi terrorists in the organizing and execution of the breach and takeover of the United States Capitol. History shows that if the insurrectionists were fighting for Black lives, law enforcement would have deployed tear gas, bullets, and other weapons before anyone could have made it to the Capitol steps. This rings particularly true considering that just two months before the coup, over 200 people were injured outside of the 4th District Police station in DC after police violently dispersed a crowd of protestors demanding justice for 20-year-old Karon Hylton, who police killed during an unlawful chase. These officers would later be charged with murder.

We lost over 1 million people nationally in the global coronavirus pandemic, and we found the numbers to be exceptionally high for Black people. From 2020 to 2021, 76% of COVID-19 deaths in the District of Columbia were of Black people, even though we are only 48% of Washington DC's overall population, according to the 2020 Census. The pandemic took its toll on the mental health, physical wellness, and financial stability of communities of color.

MESSAGE FROM TRIBE CONT'D...

Black Lives Matter DC (BLMDC) joined ten other chapters (the BLM10) in making the tough decision to break away from Black Lives Matter Global Network (BLMGN - the national BLM organization) after our calls for transparency and accountability from leadership since 2016 went unanswered. After our first public statement, additional chapters and entities joined us. We became the BLM 10 Plus and released a second statement. We have included both statements at the end of this report. While millions of dollars have been donated to BLMGN, most chapters have received little to no financial support since the launch in 2013. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, people still believe we are the same organization, and it has seriously impacted our chapter's ability to fundraise and continue to do this work. As chapters, we raise our own funds to be able to continue the work we do in our own cities.

Through it all, Black Lives Matter DC remained committed to fostering spaces for collective healing, mutual aid, and community support. We continued to mobilize against state-sanctioned violence and the oppressive systems of capitalism, white supremacy, patriarchy, and colonialism. This report is a snapshot of the critical work that Black Lives Matter DC and the community accomplished amid multiple and simultaneous crises. Here, we highlight the programs, actions, work within our community, and partnerships that are helping to bring us steps closer to true Black Liberation and changing the material conditions of Black people in the District. After reading this report, we hope you will share, get involved, and support this essential work to ensure that Black lives matter and always will in the District of Columbia and the nation.

Towards Liberation,

April Goggans, Jonetta Johnson, Mari Davenport, Marybeth Onyeukwu

Photo by: Tony Hack, MLK Day Parade Southeast, DC 2020

OUR WORK

IN 2020 AND 2021, BLACK LIVES MATTER DC SUPPORTED OVER 45 FAMILIES THAT LOST A FAMILY MEMBER TO COMMUNITY OR POLICE VIOLENCE.

No one should have to deal with the traumas of community or police violence. However, when tragedy strikes, people deserve compassion and the resources necessary to begin the healing process. We assisted families by redistributing resources and providing direct aid.

$350,000 — **Contributed in funeral and burial expenses to families impacted by community or police violence.**

$20,000 — **Donated to a survivor support fund to support Black trans women for two years who are facing housing instability and healing the traumas of abuse.**

$78,500 — **Provided in legal representation to Black people in DC who were impacted by state violence as well as activists and protesters on the front line.**

$15,194 — **Provided in school supplies, backpacks and donations for back-to-school events in Wards 7 & 8.**

Picture Credit: Tony Hack

	2020 Holiday	2021 Holiday	Total
Rent, Utilities & Transportation	$6,741	$26,697	$33,438
Gifts & Gift Cards	$7,000	$16,186	$23,186

TOTAL DIRECT AID

$56,624

ANCESTORS WATCHING

A Virtual Vigil In Honor of Black Lives Lost to State Violence in the DC Area

8/27/20 Ancestors Watching Vigil, Eaton Hotel

As thousands of people descended on Washington, D.C. to commemorate the March on Washington, Black Lives Matter DC held space for the families of those killed by state violence in the DC area. These loved ones are too often erased, forgotten and unknown and as a result not being uplifted during national actions held here in D.C.

As part of our Black August 2020 events, we brought together families of Black lives taken by the state during a virtual vigil. Due to COVID-19 we limited the in-person attendees to family and the vigil was live streamed.

BLMDC was honored to provide meals and housing accommodations for families who flew across the country. The day after the vigil, we accompanied these families to the March on Washington. We worked tirelessly with the event organizers to ensure that local families were included and uplifted during this national event as they seldom are. It was a powerful moment and we were honored to have been able to accompany them.

Kenethia Alston, mother of Marqueese Alston murdered by MPD 6/12/18

EAST OF THE RIVER MUTUAL AID (EORMA)

IN 2020 AND 2021, BLMDC FOSTERED SPACES FOR COLLECTIVE HEALING AND WE DEEPENED OUR PRACTICES OF MUTUAL AID.

Government systems will always fail to protect and serve and will continue to actively harm Black communities. Now, more than ever, we must build community-based help networks that are transparent, free of judgment, and where we can be held accountable for meeting each others' needs because we understand that the government will not or can not. **Mutual aid isn't a form of charity, but a type of community economic practice where power and resource distribution is equitable.** It is how we band together with dignity and self-determination to meet our basic survival needs like food, healthcare, shelter, transportation, clothing, and things directly related to our quality of life. East of the River Mutual Aid (EORMA) formed in March 2020 when the global pandemic reached our doors and quarantine restrictions shuttered much of the city. To keep one another safe, organizers from **Black Swan Academy**, **Peace House DC**, **Peace Fellowship Church, Black Lives Matter DC, and community members** came together to form a mutual aid hub in support of our neighbors East of the Anacostia River. Using existing practices, our organizers from these groups and the community quickly developed a network that would serve as a means of caring for ourselves and our neighbors' basic needs when access to food, cleaning supplies, and PPE was scarce.

EORMA'S MISSION

EORMA's mission is to address the vast systemic inequities that exist East of the River in the District of Columbia by keeping each other safe through mutual aid.

EORMA'S GOALS

- Expand the reach of our political education
- Resource neighbors to meet basic needs
- Form new partnerships with similar organizations
- Increase community engagement with volunteers who live or have connections to Wards 7 and 8
- Create a framework for dynamic mutual aid practices to meet the ever-changing needs of our community.

EORMA at a glance

Hosted 8 pop-up events in wards 7 & 8 to provide books, hot food, gloves, hats, and more than 2,000 winter coats.

Made more than 18,000 deliveries of free groceries & household items including: canned goods, locally sourced produce, adult incontinence products, baby diapers, pull ups, cleaning supplies and hygiene products to households in Wards 7 and 8.

Provided emergency housing to those affected by threat of violence, home fires, and COVID quarantine.

Assembled more than 9,000 hygiene kits.

In April 2021, EORMA created a COVID-19 hotline to help community members get access to the vaccine by scheduling vaccination appointments, answering questions, sending out appointment reminders, and providing transportation.

Photo by: Dee Dwyer

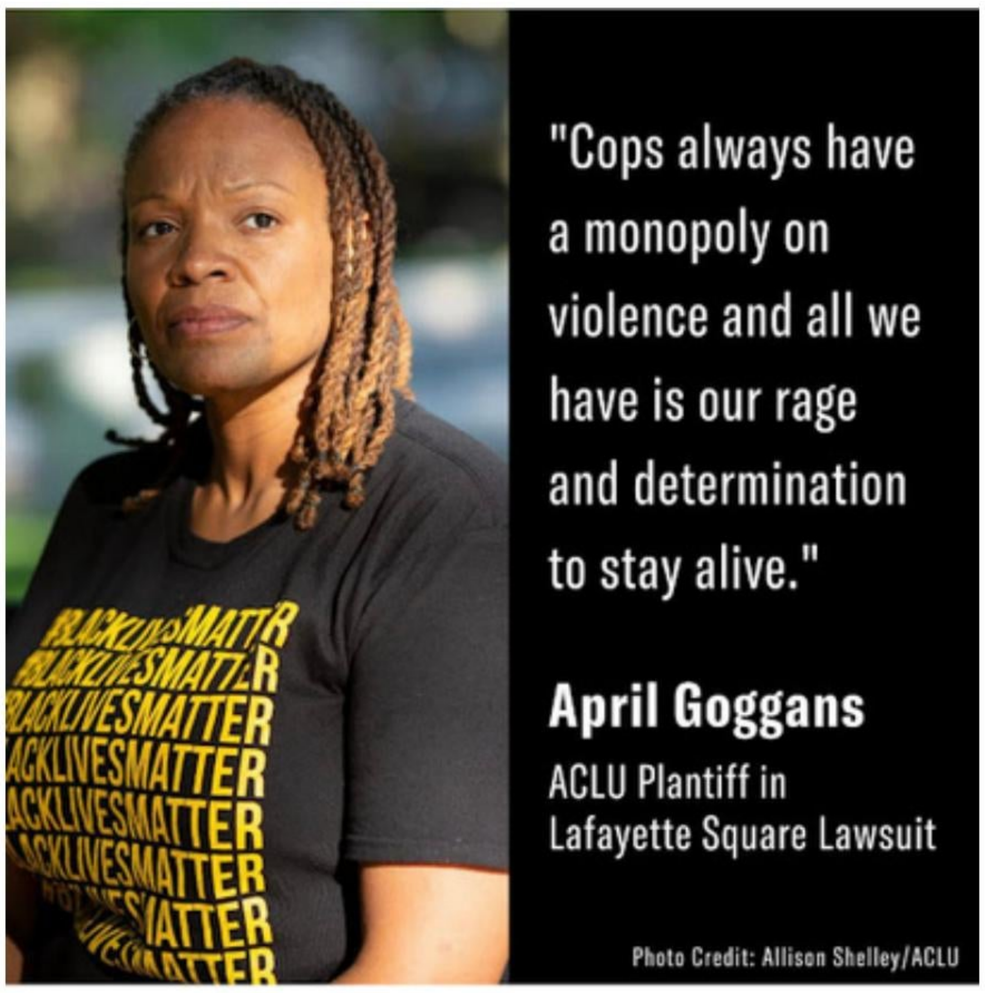
- Black residents in the District are more than 5x as likely to live in poverty and have roughly 1/3 the income relative to white residents.
- The share of Black people in DC living below the poverty line rose from 21.6% percent in 2019 to 27.7% in 2021.

We advocated for Black lives while decreasing the power of the carceral state.

BLMDC V TRUMP

June 1 , 2020

President Trump and the Attorney General directed the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Park Police, D.C. National Guard, and Federal Bureau of Prisons to attack a protest in response to the murder of George Floyd at Lafayette Square Park across the street from the White House.


"Cops always have a monopoly on violence and all we have is our rage and determination to stay alive."
April Goggans
ACLU Plantiff in Lafayette Square Lawsuit
Photo Credit: Allison Shelley/ACLU

The President and Attorney General ordered the firing of tear gas, pepper spray capsules, rubber bullets and flash bombs into the crowd to force demonstrators to flee the area in order to permit the President to walk to a photo opportunity at a nearby church. Many people were injured, some severely, by this surprise attack.

June 4 , 2020

BLMDC with the ACLU of DC, Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP, Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, sued President Trump, Attorney General Barr, Secretary of Defense Esper, and numerous other federal officials on behalf of Black Lives Matter D.C. and five individual protestors, including a nine-year-old boy.

We later discovered video footage proving that D.C. Metropolitan Police also participated in the attack by shooting tear gas at protestors as they fled. This contradicted public statements of D.C. Police Chief Peter Newsham that MPD had not been involved.

July 2020

We amended the complaint again to add Newsham and MPD officers as defendants and two of the protestors they attacked—a father and his 15-year-old daughter who had been distributing peanut butter sandwiches to protestors—as plaintiffs.

June 21, 2021

The court dismissed our constitutional damages claims against all of the federal officials, holding that federal officials cannot be sued for monetary compensation for violating constitutional rights whenever they do so against a crowd near the White House because of inherent presidential security implications, regardless of whether security actually justified the attack.

April 2022

The federal government agreed to implement a series of policy reforms to settle plaintiffs' claims for injunctive relief (i.e., claims seeking a court order to prevent future attacks against demonstrators). In exchange for the plaintiffs' dismissal of these claims, the government will:

1. Prohibit the Park Police from revoking of demonstration permits absent "clear and present danger to the public safety," or "widespread violations of applicable law that pose significant threat of injury to persons or property";
2. Require Park Police to enable the safe withdrawal of demonstrators if a protest is being dispersed;
3. Require Park Police to provide verbal warnings before dispersing a crowd;
4. Require Park Police Park Police to wear clearly visible identification;
5. Prohibit discriminatory policing; and
6. Modify Secret Service policy to reduce the opportunity for guilt-by-association policing.

May 2022

We appealed the court decision dismissing the claims seeking compensation, and will continue to pursue damages claims against the officials who ordered and participated in the brutality of June 1, 2020.

NO MORE CURFEW TIMELINE

On **June 2, 2020**, BLMDC filed for an Injunction against Mayor Muriel Bowser & Police Chief Peter Newsham for instituting a curfew effective on June 1, 2020 from 7pm to 6am.

On J**une 3, 2020**, after receiving our lawsuit, the Mayor announced she was continuing the curfew starting at 11pm instead of 7pm.

On **June 4, 2020**, the Mayor announced she will not continue to impose a curfew for the District of Columbia.

Our success here blocked an attempt to criminalize dissent and possibly reduced some harm to those protesting police brutality in DC.

The curfew created on June 1, 2020 led the Metropolitan Police Department, the Secret Service, the National Guard, and various other Federal Law Enforcement Agencies to descend upon the District and commit violent acts against protestors that could be considered felonies and war crimes if carried out in any other context. Throughout the evening, protestors were tear-gassed, shot with rubber bullets, brutally assaulted, kettled, and forced into the homes of strangers until the curfew expired.

BLMDC PROVIDED COP WATCH TRAINING

Cop Watch focuses on monitoring the police and other law enforcement agencies operating in our communities, documenting their activities, and when necessary, intervening to prevent state abuses and repression. Copwatch also provides various types of self-defense, security and “know your rights” trainings, and political education for the community.- **Let Your Motto Be Resistance: A Handbook on Organizing New Afrikan and Oppressed Communities for Self-Defense, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, March 2013**

DEFUND MPD

Black Lives Matter DC donated $100,000 to the defund MPD Coalition.

In 2021, in addition to the $100k to Defund, BLMDC gave **two** more subgrants of **$50K** each for Black-led organizing, advocacy and building campaigns that center Black people most at risk for state violence in DC, creating the conditions for Black Liberation through the abolition of systems and institutions of white supremacy, capitalism, patriarchy, and colonialism.

$19,000 IN SUPPORT TO END GUN VIOLENCE

We donated twice to T.R.I.G.G.E.R Project:

End the Violence Conference 5/20/21 **$7,000**

Gun Violence Play Production 9/19/2021 **$2,000**

Picture Credit: Maurice Bland

We helped support other anti-gun violence events:

2020 Karon Brown Day **$5,000**

2021 Karon Brown Day **$5,000**

WASHINGTON DC'S HISTORY OF RESISTANCE

Black Lives Matter is not a new movement. It is the current moment of Black folks' centuries long resistance to state violence through community defense, and self-determination. We do this work with deep respect and grounding in the incredibly powerful and long legacy of resistance to police abuse in DC especially. Our work is possible because of their brilliance, collective action, sacrifice, and struggle.

1919 Red Summer: Black WWI Vets Defend Their Communities From Racist Mob Violence

Violence and widespread terror during Red Summer were the result of more than 23 "anti-black riots" in cities across the country. When Black veterans returned to D.C. at the end of World War I many had to arm themselves and keep watch from rooftops ready to defend Black neighborhoods from racist mob violence. Blockades near Howard University were also built around Black residents for protection. 22-year-old Randall Neal was one of the first people killed in DC. In DC armed soldiers roamed the streets stopping and questioning Black residents sometimes ending in violence.

ING IN RACE WAR

RIOTS AGAIN BREAK OUT IN NATIONAL CAPITAL, MARINE KILLS NEGRO

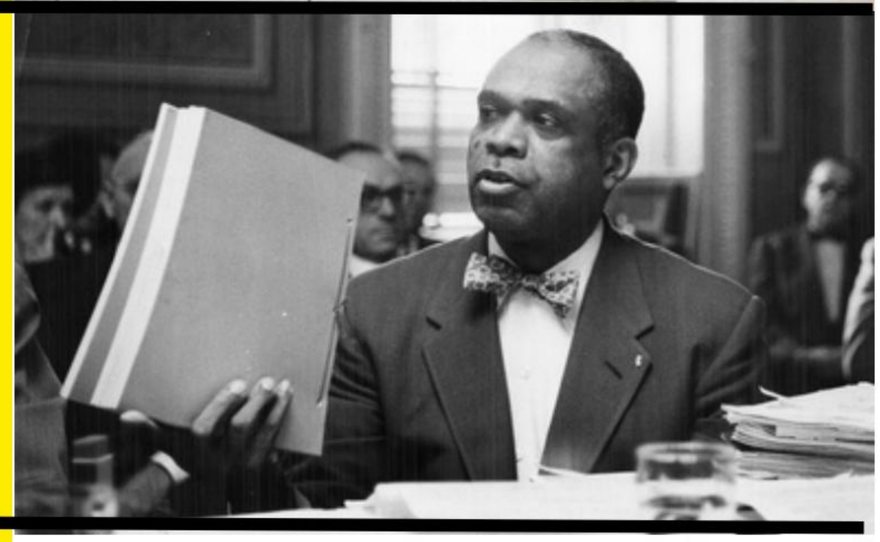
SOUTHWORTH EMPLOYEES ARE ON STRIKE

Men at Machine Shops Demand 8-Hour Day With Present Pay

City Detective Shot By Colored Woman; Many Are Injured

1936 Chapter of the National Negro Congress Demands a Congressional Investigation of DC Police

A mass meeting addressing police brutality or "urban lynching" in DC was held by the DC Chapter of the National Negro Congress (NNC) at Metropolitan Baptist Church. The NCC went on to launch a campaign demanding an investigation of DC police and their "unnecessary and unlawful use of force".
Source: DC Public Library, Star Collection, ©Washington Post



1936 Afro Lists Victims of DC Police Killings

On October 17, 1936 the Afro-American newspaper published the names of victims killed by the police and notes that 5 Black people are killed each year in DC. *Source: List of the Slain. Afro, Oct. 17, 1936*

Cops Kill Five Every Year in D.C.; All Freed

The AFRO's tabulation (shown below) made up from the newspaper's files and police depart- men, ten of whom were white. All officers involved, except one, were white. All were exonerated

1937 The Joint Committee for Civil Rights in the District of Columbia Holds Mock Trial

The Joint Committee for Civil Rights in the District of Columbia (and later the Citizens Committee Against Police Brutality), held a mock trial against "killer cops" in May 1937 at John Wesley AME Zion Church, 14th and Corcoran streets NW. George E.C. Hayes acted as a prosecuting attorney and Lucy Diggs Slowe, Howard University Dean of Women, served as a mock judge. The trial brought attention to a large public audience the District's abusive treatment of its Black citizens. DC

1941 Rally Against Police Brutality

On Sept. 14, 1941 four marches from different points in the city of Washington, D.C. got underway, involving an estimated 2,000 total participants. Each march was dedicated to one of the four recent Black victims of police brutality. The treks converged at 10th and U Streets NW for a rally where about 500 remained to hear a number of speakers.
Photographer unknown. Image courtesy of the D.C. Public Library Historical Image Collection.

Richard Smith, chair of the D.C. Five, said, "The white man doesn't care about us any more than a dog."

1948 Civil Rights Congress Marched Against a Police Raid at Negro and Allied Veterans of America and Vets for Wallace Dance

DC Police raided a dance sponsored by the Negro and Allied Veterans of America and Vets for Wallace. The Civil Rights Congress marched in front of the DC Police Headquarters with a mock coffin that said "Don't Bury American Freedom". A few signs read "Give Storm-trooper Tactics Back to the Nazis." *Photo by the Washington Daily News. Courtesy of the D.C. Public Library, Washington Star Collection © Washington Post.*

1963 Demonstrators at the march on Washington, D.C. demand an end to police violence

On August 28, 1963 demonstrators at March on Washington, D.C. and also demanded an end to police violence. During his "I have a Dream Speech" he declared, "We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality."

1967 Protesting Against police brutality at the District Building

On May 17, 1967 community members filled the fifth floor halls of the District Building (now the Wilson Building) in protest of the police shooting death of Clarence J. Brooker.

1967 Protest police shooting Two Black Men

On May 26, 1967 the D.C. Five from Youth Action Center on Georgia Ave led a spontanous protest against the police shooting of two young Black men at a nearby playground by DC police officer Sampson Jefferson. The precinct's American flag was lowered to half-mast during the protest. While a small group did meet with police captain E. D. Gooding, he only responded that there would be "a complete, thorough and fair investigation." to which chair of the D.C. Five, Richard Smith said, "The white man doesn't care about us any more than a dog." *Photo by Geoff. The image was a Washington Daily News photograph that is part of the D.C. Public Library Washington Star Collection © Washington Post.*

1968 Pilot District Project

The 5-year Pilot District Project was launched during the summer of 1968. The project's goals included police reform and public participation in what is now Ward 1. The community was not asked for input until late in the process. The community believed the pilot was merely a plan for white federal officials to control Black neighborhoods. The community, including Marion Barry, actively pushed back. *Source: National Building Museum Collection.*

October 1968 Rally and March at New School for Afro American

In October 1968 at the New School for Afro American nearly 200 attended a rally and march to protest D.C. Police for murdering Elijah Bennett for jaywalking. Stokely Carmichael addressed those at the rally and condemned Elijah Bennett's murder before the march began to the intersection of 14th and T Streets. When they arrived at the intersection, all of the marchers jaywalked together in a show of solidarity and resistance.

1991 Mt. Pleasant Riots

The tension between DC's Latino community and the police was already simmering when a Black police officer shot and wounded a Salvadoran man on May 5, 1991 in the Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood. The incident gave rise to a days-long uprising.

BLMDC'S RESISTANCE IN 2020 AND 2021

We do this work in honor of our ancestors, for the love of and duty to our people now, and for the liberation of our future.

#ReclaimMLK Week Of Action: 5th Anniversary Edition

Each year we honor and celebrate the unsanitized legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a #ReclaimMLK Week of Action continuing Dr. King's radical legacy of fighting against poverty, militarism, racism and police brutality. In 2020 the week of action included training, teach-ins, and Black Joy events to energize our movement and to build skills and gain the experience needed to shift violence and keep each other safer in DC. During that week, we spent intentional time to reflect and continue the resistance. We will not be silenced by state repression, deterred by state violence, or slowed by the criminalization of Blackness.

BLACK LIVES MATTER DC:
#ReclaimMLK
Week of Action: 5th Anniversary Edition
ASL, Free Childcare & Food Provided
BLACKLIVESMATTERDC
BLM DC
@DMVBLACKLIVES
INFO@DCBLM.ORG
SAT * JAN 18
1 PM - 4 PM
Emotional Emancipation Circle
IDEA PCS 1027 45th St NE
Black Only Space especially for those impacted by violence to share, process grief, and practice emotional wellness skills.
SAT JAN 18
10 PM - 1 AM
BLK Joy Party 2020
Woolly Mammoth Theater, 641 D St. NW
21+. The ultimate turn up! Music, dancing, and more music and dance.
SUN * JAN 19
2 - 4:30 PM
#BlackJoySunday Art Build
Anacostia Library. 1800 Good Hope Rd. SE
Exerience Black Joy together through art, music and fun. Black Only Space.
MON JAN 20
11 AM
MLK Parade
Meet BLM DC in front of 1113 Good Hope Rd. SE Parade starts at 12.
Wear all-Black if possible.
TUES * JAN 21
6:30-9 PM
Participatory Defense 101
Covenant Baptist Church 3845 S Capitol St SW
Learn how families and communities can organize together in the defense of loved ones facing criminal charges.
WED * JAN 22
6 - 8:30 PM
#NoNewJailsDC Abolition Teach-In
Benning Rd. Library. 3935 Benning Rd. NE
Discussion about the new jail being proposed and strategies for fighting back
THUR * JAN 23
6:30 - 9 PM
Street Law 101
IDEA PCS 1027 45th St. NE
Learn about your rights when interacting with police the way it happens in real life.
SAT * JAN 25
1:30 - 4:30 PM
Cop Watch Training, Orientation, & Stroll
Anacostia Library. 1800 Good Hope Rd. SE
Learn to document police interactions to help expose police misconduct and keep each other safer.

Pack the Court For Quan

PACK THE COURT FOR QUAN
2/26/20 9AM 500 INDIANA AVE NW
Quan Johnson was knocked unconscious and arrested by MPD who then followed and harassed him, took his car and arrested him over the next two weeks. Show up for Quan with Black Lives Matter DC in courtroom 316 and wear your BLM tshirt! For more info email: info@dcblm.org.

On Wednesday December 26, 2019 Derick “Quan” Johnson, 24 was assaulted by officers and within mere seconds he is on the ground unconscious and arrested. Quan spent the night at DC Central Cell block and the next day in court his charges being completely dropped the next day and he was released. On the night of January 1, 2020 MPD’s Gun Recovery Unit pulled Quan, his mother, brother, and infant son over.

The first reason given for this “traffic stop” was that Quan (the passenger) looked like he reached down for something as they drove by. When MPD searched the vehicle, they intentionally stabbed holes in the passenger seat where Quan had been sitting. BLMDC filmed the incident, Quan was arrested and given a March 18, 2020 court date. BLMDC organized communnity members to pack the court room to show our support of Quan and send a message to MPD that we were watching. Those charges we also dismissed and we were there when he was released.

Essential Not Expendable Moving Protest

BLM DC's Essential, Not Expendable Moving Protest in April 2020 was part of the 10-day Earth Day To May Day action. The protest included Long Live Go-Go playing live on a moving 26-foot flatbed trailer through the city. The protest centered a number of worksites where Black essential workers were being forced to work like grocery stores and hospitals and visited visited sites where incarcerated and institutionalized community members were forced to live in increasingly unsafe conditions. The protests supported essential workers while simultaneously condemning the institutions that are treating Black workers and others as expendable in a safe, socially distant way.

Black Lives Matter = Defund the Police

Joined a coalition of Black organizers to correct Mayor Muriel Bowser's mural on Black Lives Matter Plaza.

18 COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENCE

Here's what people are saying about BLMDC

"BLM supported this impacted woman when she was at a LOW point and HOMELESS! Yes, I said HOMELESS! BLMDC afforded me the opportunity to have shelter at an extended stay. They offered me relief at a time of GREAT Stress! I am grateful for what they have done for me, and what I know they have done for others!" - **Rhanda Dormeous, Mother of Korryn Gaines killed by Baltimore County Police 8/1/16**

"BLMDC has been such a crucial organizing body in the city. BLMDC shows up for community, centers joy and resistance and challenges many of us to do more than what we thought we could, or what we have been doing. As someone who has facilitated for BLM DC, attended events, volunteered and witnessed how they have held and supported families and the larger community, I am incredibly thankful. "- **Iris Jacob, Social Justice Synergy**

Black Lives Matter stood behind me while I was trying to obtain video camera footage after my son was killed by an off-duty police officer. " - **Catherine Young, Mother of D'Quan Young, Killed by MPD 5/9/18**

"BLM has been very supportive throughout the last 4 years of me and my family's grieving." - **Denise Price, Mother of Jeffrey Price, Killed by MPD 5/4/18**

"BLMDC was the only organization that was there in the most terribly traumatic nightmare that me and my family suffered.They provided so much support and love! I am eternally grateful to this organization." **- Roxane Johnson, Mother of Jamaal Byrd, Central Cell Block, killed by Police 10/1/19**

"BLMDC was here for me ever since I lost my son from gun violence." - **Taquana Duncan, Mother of Carmello Duncan, Lost to Gun Violence 12/2/20**

19 COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENCE CONT'D

"Although I am a Maryland resident of a police brutality victim, BLMDC has NEVER let that affect the support provided not only to me but also to so many other impacted persons in MD and DC. BLMDC provides support in so many ways; all of which I have had the honor to witness firsthand. BLMDC exemplifies the true definition of being in and with community!!! It is such an honor and a privilege to share space with them as both an impacted family and the ED of the Coalition of Concerned Mothers." - **Marion Gray-Hopkins, Mother of Gary Hopkins, Jr, Killed by Prince George's County Police 11/27/99**

"When my son's story was made public, BLMDC showed up at my son's vigil and introduced themselves. They not only supported me at my son's vigil, but they stood by my side from that day forward fighting for my son's justice. The genuine love and support they showed me and my family one would have thought they knew me prior, or I was related. In essence, we are related, they are my family." - **Beverly Smith, Mother of Alonzo Smith, Killed by Special Police, 11/1/15**

"They have been big supporters of my son who lost his life to gun violence. They have helped me with my community events. They are a wonderful organization that supports our families. They help out with our household and bills. They are always a great connection to resources that help us parents." - **Arteka Brown, Mother of Christopher Brown, Lost to Gun Violence 8/9/20**

"BLMDC has been extremely compassionate to me and my family. With my son being fatally stabbed at school during his first years of high school I had to bury my son way too soon. They covered basically the majority of all of my sons funeral cost." - **Ikesha Payne, Mother of Kemon Payne, 8/18/21**

"I've personally really appreciated the support BLM DC has offered to PeaceWalksDC and to families impacted by gun violence in the city. There have been countless times Peace Fellowship Church and BLM have partnered to support families impacted by either police violence or community violence. It has meant a lot to me to see how dedicated BLM has been to a wholistic theory of change around ending violence in our communities." - **Pastor Delonte Gholston, Peace Fellowship Church**

OUR GOALS HOW WE WILL PROTECT BLACK LIVES

1. Create a community of radical learning through community based political education and training that centers those most at risk for state violence.

2. Highlight the harm to those who have experienced state violence, the harm that extends beyond those directly impacted and the state's failure to address and inability to reform it.

3. Building a base of engaged organizers and change agents in the community who develop an analysis of structural causes and the creation of structural alternatives through community organizing, movement building, and direct action.

HONORING OUR PAST MEMBERS

Without their extraordinary contributions, brilliance, sacrifice, vision, and commitment to Black Liberation there would be no Black Lives Matter DC!

Aaron Goggans
Anthony Lorenzo Green
Chioma Iwuoha
Dane Edison
Erika Totten
Jazzlyn Lindsey
Katie Petit
Khadija Carr
Khadijah McCaskill
Lourdes Ashley Hunter
Kiki Green
Marques Banks
Mikael Owunna
NeeNee Taylor
Omolara Willams McCallister
Qiana Johnson
Queenlin
Toni Sanders
Tracye Redd

GET INVOLVED
DCBLM.ORG

DONATE
VOLUNTEER
SHOW UP

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

350 DC
ACLU of DC
Al Malik Farrakhan
Alliance of Concerned Men
Ama's Catering
Anacostia Coordinating Council
Anais Sensiba
Andrew O. Clarke, Esquire
Asian Pacific Islander Resistance (API Resistance)
Beloved Community Incubator
Black Futures Collective
Black Power Media
Black Swan Academy
BlackOUT Collective
BLM10 Plus
Bold Yoga
Bread for the City
Cease Fire Don't Shoot the Brothers and Sisters
Cedar United
Center for Racial Equity and Justice
Chioma Owuoha
Chuck Modi
Claudia Jones School for Political Education
Coalition of Concerned Mothers
Collective Action for Safe Spaces (CASS)
Community Shoulders
Covenant Baptist Church
#DecrimPoverty
DC 4 Democracy
DC Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression (DCAARPR)
DC Anti-Fascist Action
DC IWOCC
DC Justice Lab
DC Medic Collective
DC Mutual Aid Network
Dee Dwyer
Defending Rights and Dissent
Denise Rolark Barnes
Delia Goncalves
East of the River Mutual Aid
Eaton Hotel
Ester Iverm
Food Not Bombs DC
Free Minds Book Club
Freedom Fighters DC
Friends and Family of Incarcerated People
Grassroots DC
Hard Workin' Ent.
Harriett's Wildest Dreams
Healers for Liberation
HIPS
Iris Jacobs
Jamila White, ANC 8A05
Jared Ball
Jewish Voice for Peace DC
Johnny Barnes
Katia Stit
Kemry Hughes
Kiki McBroom, ANC 8E03
La CollectiVA
Law for Black Lives DC
Life After Release
Long Live GoGo
Luci Murphy
Lydia Curtis
Malcolm X Grassroots Movement DC Chapter
Markus Batchelor
Marty's Cakes and Catering
Max Rameou
Metro DC Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)
Movement for Black Lives
National Lawyers Guild
Netfa Freeman
Nketchi Taifa
OneRae Lateal
Organizing Black
Palm Collective
Pan-African Community Action (PACA)
Party for Socialism Liberation DC (PSL DC)
Pastor Delonte Gholston
Peace House DC
Peace Fellowship Church
Phillip Pannell
Police Accountability Litigation Corps (PALC)
Remora House
Raphael Briscoe Foundation
Regina Pixley
Rev. George C. Gilbert, Jr.
Roach Brown
Samaria Rice
Serve Your City
Shut Down DC
Stop Police Terror Project (SPTP)
Stuart Anderson
Sunrise DC
Showing Up for Racial Justice
The New Synagogue
The W.I.R.E.
T.R.I.G.G.E.R Project
Tyrone Parker
Vendedores Unidos
Virginia Spatz
Washington Lawyers Committee
Washington Teachers Union
Yango Sawyer

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED LOVE & SUPPORT

BLACK PEOPLE KILLED BY POLICE IN DC IN 2020 & 2021

De'Andre Johnson - October 18, 2021
George Watson - August 31, 2021
An'Twan Gilmore - August 25, 2021
Vedo Hall - May 24, 2021
Terrance Parker - April 30, 2021
Anthony Louis - April 4, 2021
Noah Green - April 2, 2021
Karon Hylton-Brown - October 23, 2020
Deon Kay - September 2, 2020
Devonne Harris - July 24, 2020

SAY THEIR NAMES

THIS IMPACT REPORT WAS DESIGNED BY MELEGANCE, LLC

IT IS TIME FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

November 30, 2020

It was recently declared that Patrisse Cullors was appointed the Executive Director to the Black Lives Matter Global Network (BLMGN) Foundation. Since then, two new Black Lives Matter formations have been announced to the public: a Black Lives Matter Political Action Committee, and BLM Grassroots. BLM Grassroots was allegedly created to support the organizational needs of chapters, separate from the financial functions of BLMGN. We, the undersigned chapters, believe that all of these events occurred without democracy, and assert that it was without the knowledge of the majority of Black Lives Matters chapters across the country and world.

We became chapters of Black Lives Matter as radical Black organizers embracing a collective vision for Black people engaging in the protracted struggle for our lives against police terrorism. With a willingness to do hard work that would put us at risk, we expected that the central organizational entity, most recently referred to as the Black Lives Matter Global Network (BLMGN) Foundation, would support us chapters in our efforts to build communally. Since the establishment of BLMGN, our chapters have consistently raised concerns about financial transparency, decision making, and accountability. Despite years of effort, no acceptable internal process of accountability has ever been produced by BLMGN and these recent events have undermined the efforts of chapters seeking to democratize its processes and resources.

In the spirit of transparency, accountability, and responsibility to our community, we believe public accountability has become necessary. As a contribution to our collective liberation, we must make clear:

1. Patrisse Cullors, as the sole board member of BLMGN, became Executive Director against the will of most chapters and without their knowledge.
2. The newly announced formation, BLM Grassroots, does not have the support of and was created without consultation with the vast majority of chapters.
3. The formation of BLM Grassroots effectively separated the majority of chapters from BLMGN without their consent and interrupted the active process of accountability that was being established by those chapters.
4. In our experience, chapter organizers have been consistently prevented from establishing financial transparency, collective decision making, or collaboration on political analysis and vision within BLMGN
5. For years there has been inquiry regarding the financial operations of BLMGN and no acceptable process of either public or internal transparency about the unknown millions of dollars donated to BLMGN, which has certainly increased during this time of pandemic and rebellion.
6. To the best of our knowledge, most chapters have received little to no financial support from BLMGN since the launch in 2013. It was only in the last few months that selected chapters appear to have been invited to apply for a $500,000 grant created with resources generated because of the organizing labor of chapters. This is not the equity and financial accountability we deserve.

We remain committed to collectively building an organization of BLM chapters that is democratic, accountable, and functions in a way that is aligned with our ideological values and commitment to liberation. We will move forward with transparency and expound on our collective efforts to seek transparency and organizational unity in a fuller statement in the near future. As we collectively determine next steps, we encourage our supporters to donate directly to chapters, who represent the frontline of Black Lives Matter.

Black Lives Matter Philly | Black Lives Matter 5280 | Black Lives Matter Hudson Valley | Black Lives Matter Oklahoma City | Black Lives Matter Chicago | Black Lives Matter New Jersey | Black Lives Matter DC | Black Lives Matter Indy | Black Lives Matter San Diego | Black Lives Matter Vancouver

TELL NO LIES

June 10, 2021

"Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories..."- Amilcar Cabral

The BLM10Plus (The original 10 signatories and the other chapters and organizers that stand with us) remain steadfast in our open calls for accountability from the BLM Global Network Foundation (BLMGN) and Patrisse Cullors.

With no other viable options available, on November 30, 2020 the BLM10 released a public statement calling for accountability from the Network and the affiliated Foundation. Following the release of this statement, chapter names were promptly removed from the BLMGN website. As a direct result of the release of our public statement, the demands for accountability grew. Families of those who were lost to police violence spoke out and also demanded accountability, including Michael Brown Sr., Samaria Rice, and Lisa Simpson. The number of chapters that have aligned in support of our statement has nearly doubled. Some of these chapters have made their own statements echoing not only our call to accountability, but also our experiences as we sought transparency, democracy and internal transformation for years. Organizers outside of Black Lives Matter have also stepped forward making official statements and through social media expressing the harm they have experienced by BLMGNF.

Black Liberation must be about more than protecting the few of us that are doing well. It must be about building a movement that will ensure all of us get free. Because successful movements are collective, not individual, they must be rooted in accountability that protects all of our people. Our love for the people means we have a duty to prioritize this principled accountability for each other, our communities, and the struggle for Black Liberation.

The issues we raise are bigger than simple complaints about individual leaders, but about the ways liberalism and capitalism have manifested in BLMGN and the current iteration of the Black liberation movement as a whole, co-opting and deradicalizing this critical historic moment of revolutionary possibility.

They are about how nepotism , proximity to power, and access to resources became more important to the Network than making sure that they had a radical vision, objectives, and strategies created through a transparent, democratic decision making process and a solid foundation of shared governance and political alignment.

We write this statement because any movement that shields those with power from accountability cannot free us. It is our hope that this statement will inspire people to build a movement for Black Liberation designed to protect the masses of Black people who have risked it all to organize and protest, instead of a movement designed to defend the visible and powerful that are taking advantage of our struggle to enrich themselves.

STRUCTURAL DISORGANIZATION

Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation has taken different organizational forms and used different names over the years. We recognize that it can be difficult to fully engage in discussions about the Black Lives Matter Global Network, #BLM, Black Lives Matter, and BLM Chapters because there are multiple entities involved and few if any details have ever been offered publicly about the differences among them.

But here is something the public might not know: details about the BLM network (legal organization names, the total number of entities, how the entities relate to one another, who is in charge of each entity, what agreements or contracts those entities have made with other entities, etc.) were not offered to organizers of BLM chapters either. The little we do know, has come from persistent requests for transparency over the years. We have only known some of the staff and contractors for BLMGN and the little information we received about their roles has been inconsistent. The salaries, such as those of Patrisse Cullors, other founders, and staff have never been reported to Chapters. A guide to Black Lives Matter Network entities as we know it is provided here. For these purposes, however, we will refer to this web of entities as BLMGN, unless specifically referring to a particular entity.

The chapter model offered by the network has never been effective. Chapters were often referred to internally as official, unofficial, or rogue. However, BLMGN never provided a consistent definition of what qualifies as a chapter, created an application process, eligibility requirements, etc. This became a critical distinction the few times BLMGN informed some chapters there was funding or other opportunities available. The capricious designation made it easier to arbitrarily distribute resources and opportunities and to make them accessible only to a few. The most alarming use of official and unofficial chapters was BLMGN's willingness to position a chapter as unofficial if the chapter did not align with their personal political interest. Chapters were often referred to as official in cities BLMGN was seeking to court prominent individuals and high visibility opportunities. There has always been a large number of individuals and groups seeking applications or affiliation with the network. Many of these inquiries went unanswered.

As we labored to build grassroots movements in our communities, our engagement with BLMGN was always problematic and unsupportive. We never knew who made decisions or how decision making processes were determined. Chapters had different levels of access to information based on their proximity to BLMGN leadership. For example, when Patrisse Cullors stepped down from BLMGN the first time, she announced it via a call on December 31, 2019. Part of her transition included the work of a Transition Team facilitated by Makani Themba and adrienne maree brown. But access to that call was by invitation only. The excluded chapters heard of the call only by being in community with other chapters or seeing the public statement afterwards. The same was true for Opal Tometi and Alicia Garza's transition.

BLMGN intentionally discouraged or made communication difficult between chapters. That perpetuated internal distrust between chapters that fueled the unconfirmed beliefs that some chapters were getting more support than others. When chapters demanded accountability and transformation internally these processes would continually be disrupted or derailed. A recent example of this dynamic played out in the formation of BLM Grassroots. At the time Grassroots was conceptualized and introduced, chapters were discussing publicly separating from BLMGN, demanding accountability, and launching another network. Grassroots was understood to be a potential alternative to, rather than a collaborative arm of BLMGN.

In order to avoid duplicating the problems experienced with BLMGN, the Chapters clarified that Grassroots, or any new formation developed for the chapters, must have democratic development and governance and the proposal for any new structure must be accepted by the collective before becoming official.

One of our chief concerns with BLMGN was the politics, priorities, and ideology that was being presented in our name and against our will. We also were aware that funds were being amassed on our behalf and sadly concluded that we would only learn how much and how they were being used through a public process.

But even as we finalized a public statement, we were redirected to try yet another internal process as Melina Abdullah wrote an internal accountability letter with 11 demands for accountability. 19 chapters signed the letter and Patrisse agreed to the terms. It was also clearly and directly communicated that we did not want Patrisse to take any leadership role or function, beyond being a member of BLM Los Angeles, a demand she accepted. As a result of these developments, many chapter organizers felt we were on the verge of a breakthrough that would produce a democratic structure in BLMGN. Some chapters were told, incorrectly, that Grassroots was not in further development.

The body working on the alternative to BLMGN, who halted their work in good faith to engage in the internal process, soon learned via public announcement that BLM Grassroots had been launched by a handful of chapters and that this launch separated the processes and resources of BLMGN from the majority of chapters. Most surprisingly of all, we learned that Patrisse Cullors, who previously agreed with the demand that she have no role in the new formation outside of being a member, installed herself as the Executive Director of BLMGN Foundation. The announcement immediately fractured the network, leading many chapters to leave, some ultimately forming the BLM10. Chapters were informed they could join this undemocratically established new entity, and were financially incentivized to do so. There was no mention of the accountability process in which we were engaged.

The public launch of BLM Grassroots and Foundation without the input of the majority of chapters effectively ended our internal accountability, transparency, and democratization process. Furthermore, those few outliers who continually derailed internal democratic and accountability processes over time, are now all public paid staff of BLM Grassroots.

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HOARDING RESOURCES FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

BLMGN often repeated their firm opposition to operating in ways that replicated the harm and exploitation of the nonprofit industrial complex. But the result was not a new, innovative, and transparent organizational structure.

There was, instead, no discernable structure at all. This has proven to be a disastrous mechanism for managing, with transparency, accountability, and equity, the influx of untold millions of dollars over the years. With the way resources, guidance, and decision making were rarely or inequitably distributed to chapters, and the deliberate under-resourcing and exploitation of the labor of chapters and organizers, BLMGN has come to reflect the “problematic” nonprofit industrial complex it criticized.

Much of the public origin story positions BLMGN as the center of our current movement. This revisionist narrative of BLM as the center and driving force of Black resistance misrepresents the reality that what is commonly referred to as the Black Lives Matter movement started in Ferguson and that grassroots struggle was already happening there and across our communities, despite the media’s focus on the Black Lives Matter founders.

The only reason BLMGN has been able to amass millions of dollars from grants and donations is because of the pain of families who have lost loved ones to state violence and the grassroots campaigns we as local chapters and organizers have waged across the country without their support. The reason control of those resources was able to be hoarded from families, chapters, and organizers is that those referred to as founders, and those close to them, allowed themselves to be elevated by the corporate media and other tools of the system that perpetuates ongoing violence against our communities.

While BLMGN acted as a convening space for local chapters engaged in on-the-ground organizing and resistance against capitalist, white supremacist and patriarchal violence, it was not where the organizing work people associate with BLM was happening. Chapters were created by organizers not BLMGN. Chapters are autonomous and have their own infrastructure, governance, and are organized based on the uniqueness of their local contexts. Our Chapters each base our work on changing the material conditions of Black people where we are. Member chapters have been fully entrenched in their own local struggles, confronting municipal power brokers and doing the dangerous work of facing off against the police.

Because BLMGN was not engaged in direct organizing, it had resources available to do other things, such as engage with media, foundations and power brokers of the systems we are fighting against to present our local work as their own.

With their time and resources, our local campaigns were co-opted under the BLMGN banner, which assumed credit for our work, and consolidated credibility, power, and resources into an opaque institution. As a result of our statement last year BLMGN released an Impact Statement for the first time in its existence. The Impact Statement exposed what we have long argued: the primary “liberation” operations of BLMGN are currently social media campaigns and corporate partnerships, not on the ground organizing, campaigns or protests.

The BLM10Plus believes the funds donated to the Network were intended to be used to support families victimized by state based violence–police murder in particular–and for organizing strategically to transform the conditions of the Black community so that we no longer suffer continued structural violence. Social media is a helpful tool in such liberation work, but we do not believe it is appropriate that it be the bulk or whole of the work of an organization like Black Lives Matter that claims to be struggling for Black liberation. BLMGN claims to have distributed $21 million dollars to chapters and Black organizations. However most of these funds were not offered until after our call for financial transparency in November of 2020. As of the date of publication of this statement, not all of these funds have even been disbursed.

The timing of this distribution suggests that it is an effort to hide the fact that BLMGN hoards resources from the chapters doing the grassroots organizing work and our communities. The release of the impact report is also an attempt to mitigate the concerns of donors who gave to BLMGN under the impression that the funds were being distributed to chapters all over the country that they saw doing the work. Our chapters have never been appropriately or equitably resourced by BLMGN.

THE IMPACT OF LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

BLMGN made the production of social media and presentations about campaigns more important than the work of the frontline chapters and the human lives behind that work. In the process, the Network ignored the needs, concerns, and critiques raised by chapters and our communities, all while describing themselves as a “chapter based, member led“ organization. They blamed issues on a lack of understanding, or attributing it to staff, or the Managing Director for a brief period, Kailee Scales, who was appointed by Patrisse without transparency. Despite full awareness of the complaints and issues, BLMGN continued to act publicly as if they were speaking for us, making decisions without consulting chapters and accepting awards for the work we powered and victories we won in our communities.

After the BLM10Plus went public with our private calls for accountability, certain movement leaders responded to these calls in a disappointing fashion. Some of these Black leaders have grouped all critiques of BLMGN together, conflating our calls for transparency with rightwing attacks. Some have condemned our approach, some published doting sentiments of support for Patrisse, centering her and thus deflecting from more important, movement-centered concerns we have raised.

We support and advocate for processes of restorative and transformative justice that result in restoring and healing for all parties involved and impacted. After a harm is committed and called out, however, these processes must go through three sequential steps: first is the Acknowledgement of Harm, which can include a holistic examination of the situation that led to the harm. Second is Accountability, where the wrong is corrected and the harmed are made whole. And third is Healing.

After hearing about the years of harm caused by BLMGN, any movement leaders who seek to jump directly to Healing, ignoring and skipping the steps of Acknowledgement and Accountability, are not advocates of Restorative or Transformative Justice. They are merely using those legitimate practices to shield themselves or their benefactors from accountability. We must be weary of those calling for Healing without Accountability.

BLMGN has still not formally responded to our demands and this lack of principled response to our demands for accountability show that BLMGN as an organization is incapable of being transformed from within. Even with the recent resignation of Patrisse Cullors, the foundation of this organizational formation is broken and cannot rise to the needs of revolutionary struggle. After 7 years seeking internal accountability, it was no surprise that Patrisse would leave in a manner that continued to evade accountability and shield BLMGN from it.

Black communities deserve better.

In the near future, we will be releasing subsequent statements to our people and the Black Liberation movement community describing who we are becoming, and making clear what our vision and demands are as we move forward together.

Black Lives Matter Nashville | Black Lives Matter Boston | Black Lives Matter 5280 | Black Lives Matter Hudson Valley | Black Lives Matter Oklahoma City | Black Lives Matter Chicago | Black Lives Matter New Jersey | Black Lives Matter DC | Black Lives Matter Houston | Black Lives Matter Indy | Black Lives Matter Cleveland | Black Lives Matter San Diego